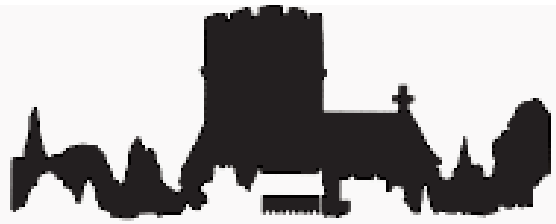


Ring Round Devon



THE GUILD OF DEVONSHIRE RINGERS

Newsletter 109, March 2018

Ringling Timetable in Chaos as Snow hits Devon



Pinhoe Road in Exeter 2nd March

Most of Devon was deluged with heavy snow on Thursday 1st March leading to a number of cancelled events including:

- Denmisch session for Exeter Cathedral School
- Heavitree Practice
- Exeter branch Skittles at Broadclyst
- Peal at Highweek
- Guild training at Heavitree
- Mid-Devon training session at Stokeinteignhead

I am sure that there were many more ringing events cancelled. Even suggestions for handbells were turned down – a lunchtime session at the University on Friday was cancelled because the University was closed, and travel difficulties made other sessions impossible, although two handbell quarters were rung by enthusiasts.

Ian Campbell

Guild Events

General Committee Meeting: 20 January 2018



Some of the delegates preparing for the session



Charlotte Boyce (treasurer), Ali Waterson (President) and John Martin (secretary)

As is traditional, the Guild's General Committee met in mid-January, once again in Newton St Cyres, where members of the Exeter Branch generously provided hospitality. For this meeting Charlotte Boyce (Guild Treasurer) stood in as Chair, deputising for Alison Waterson, the President, who – although present – had lost her voice through illness.

Reports from Guild Officers

These normally occupy much of the agenda for this meeting. As these reports will appear in full in the Guild Annual Report, comment is made on them here only where information presented may be of more immediate relevance or use to Branch members.

Treasurer's Report: It was recommended that the annual subscription should remain at £6.

There was a long discussion about the reimbursement of expenses for Central Council Representatives; the paperwork suggesting that there would be a delegate fee just to attend the meeting. This was refuted sometime after the meeting – see note at the end of this article.

Annual Report: Branches were reminded that John Foster (Editor of the Annual Report) needs text for all reports not later than the end of March. A range of views were expressed on the desirability of retaining the Guild Annual Report only in its current printed format. Concerns stemming from rising costs, falling advertising revenue and the availability of a suitable printing house were all aired. It was agreed that further consideration needs to be given to this matter within this year but that a report in paper format should still be printed this year.

Librarian's Report: Les Boyce again drew attention to the need to find a suitable location for the Guild Library, to enable its holdings to be readily accessed for borrowing as well as for research purposes. It was generally felt that the Guild should expect to pay rent or to contribute to the running costs for such a location. Suggestions of possible location would be welcomed.

The 150th anniversary of the Guild (in 2024) was also mentioned, so that thought could be given to how best to mark this, whether by updating the history to 1974 (produced by John Scott) or by further work on the earlier history of ringing in Devon, building on the research undertaken by John Eisel (recently published in *The Ringing World*).

Ringing Round Devon: It was agreed that in view of the increased costs in production and postage, partly caused by an increase in the number of pages printed, the individual subscription for *Ringing Round Devon* should be raised to £10 p.a. with immediate effect. This does not affect tower copies as that is covered by membership subscriptions. The change applies to all those who request a personal copy.

Central Council Representatives: In view of the resignation of one of the Guild's four CC representatives, it was agreed that Guild Officers should identify a temporary representative to fill this vacancy until the AGM in June.

Publicity Officer's Report: Tower captains wishing to explore any of the approaches to recruitment which have been successfully adopted at Dawlish, were invited to contact Lynne Hughes. These will be written up in an article for *Ringing Round Devon*.

Armistice 2018 Recruitment Campaign

This recruitment campaign ('Ringing Remembers'), advocated by the Central Council (<https://ccabr.org.uk/2017/12/22/ringing-remembers-project-update/>), aims to recruit 1400 new ringers, in memory of the ringers who lost their lives in the First World War.

Tim Bayton (Education Officer) outlined arrangements made between the Devon Association of Ringers and the Guild, to hold an Open Tower morning on Saturday 24 February, to assist in the recruitment in Devon of at least 80 new ringers who will then be taught within the year. Eight towers across Devon have been selected to host the Open Tower morning. All Guild members were asked to assist in publicising the Open Tower event as widely as possible. Information will be circulated and will be put on the website.

Special ringing for 2018

It was noted that a list ('Things to Ring for') had been included in the December 2017 issue of *Ringing Round Devon*. (And more are included in this issue – Ed)

Tower Handbook updates

It was agreed that in order to assist in ensuring that all affiliated towers hold up-to-date copies, the Guild Secretary will provide each Branch Secretary with a complete Handbook, with the request that each tower's Handbook is checked for completeness, so that any missing items can be replaced.

World War Rolls of Honour

It was noted that experience had shown that information may still be available through personal contacts and agreed that an article touching on this would be placed in *Ringling Round Devon*.

Guild Festival and AGM – 16 June 2018

The initial arrangements for the 2018 Festival and AGM, being hosted by Mid-Devon Branch, were outlined by Rodney Horder. With St Paul's Devon Square (Newton Abbot) as the centre for the day (even though it has no bells!), the plan is for two towers (Wolborough, East Ogwell) to be available for ringing during the morning, while a mini ring, a handbell workshop (bookings for this to be requested in advance to ensure reasonable attendance) and a session on Safeguarding (length and focus to be decided) will take place at St Paul's, where the Guild Service (1.45pm), the AGM (2.30pm-4.30pm) and General Committee meeting will also be held. The possibility of further ringing at the end of afternoon at Newton Abbot Clock Tower will be explored.

Branch information on website

Branches were requested to use their sections of the website to publicise practices, and asked to ensure that the information there is kept up-to-date (e.g. names of Branch Officers). Branch Officers were also requested to use the generic email addresses provided, in order to simplify matters when changes of officer occurred.

Striking Competitions 2018 – 20 October 2018

This will be hosted by the South West Branch. The 8 bell methods will be either a course of Lincolnshire Surprise Major or a simple touch of Plain Bob Major. Details of the touches will be published on the website.

Association of Ringing Teachers (ART)

Details of ART Training Modules are included in the Events Calendar on the website. Branch Officers were urged to draw the attention of their members to these events.

Training Programme

Tim Bayton (Education Officer) drew attention to the four sessions in the calendar described as ringing competitions, emphasising that these are intended primarily to provide opportunity for individual members to gain experience in ringing the two 8-bell methods chosen for this year's Striking Competitions, in whatever way is helpful for them. The sessions are not necessarily intended for, or restricted to, those planning to take part in the competitions.

Other dates

- Quarter Peal Festival – Friday 19 October to Sunday 4 November 2018
- Novice Ringers Contest (Devon Association of Ringers) – Black Torrington – 10 March 2018 (details to be posted on website)

The Guild Calendar of Events for 2018 is on the website (and downloadable) <http://devonringers.org.uk/news-events/events>

Church bells to win protection

Brief reference was made to the recent announcement that church bells are to win protection under new planning guidance to prevent people moving into towns and villages forcing councils to silence them (see <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2018/01/19/exclusive-peat-enland-church-bells-protected-planning-rules>)

Janet Ritterman

I'm sure those of you who were at the Guild Committee Meeting on 20th January will recall the lengthy discussion about the possibility that a fee would be charged in order for our Central Council Representatives to attend and vote at this year's meeting in Lancaster.

I have been in correspondence with Christopher O'Mahoney (CC President) who informs me that the omission of a 'Meeting only - no charge' option from the booking form was an error and so there will be no requirement for the Guild to budget for an additional attendance fee for this year's meeting.

John Martin

Practice Night Changes

From 1st March **St Paul's Tiverton** has changed their weekly practice night from Fridays to **Thursdays**, 7.30-9pm as usual.

The **Withycombe Raleigh** ringers have decided to change their practice night from Friday to **Monday** nights. We are joining forces with Littleham so practices will be as follows:

- 1st and 3rd Monday - Withycombe Raleigh
- 2nd and 4th Monday – Littleham
- 5th Monday - TBC on an *ad hoc* basis.

We very much hope that this will mean we can both hold truly worthwhile practices that will improve everyone's ringing rather than both towers struggling to have enough each week to make sensible progress.

We have also heard from **Uffculme** to say that there is no ringing there until Easter while a telecommunications antenna is being installed on the tower.

Les Boyce / Janet Deem / Alison Milne

Central Council Reforms – progress so far

Following the Council's decision to implement a programme of reform, as recommended in the proposals of the recent CRAG review, a Working Group was established in August to revise the Council's rules.

The terms of reference of this group is to incorporate those CRAG recommendations which require rule changes in 2018, particularly those involving the setup of an executive board and workgroups, and to bring the Council's rules into line with the guidance of the Charity Commission

It is important to emphasise that these reforms relate to the way in which the Central Council manages its business. They do not affect society representation and they do not, to the best of our knowledge, require any changes to society constitutions.

The Final Edition of the new rulebook, further revised in the light of feedback received on the second draft, has been sent for Charity Commission approval prior to being presented at the Council's Lancaster meeting on 27th/28th May.

The new rulebook comprises three governing documents, each of which can be read or downloaded via this page: <https://cccbr.org.uk/about/reform/rules/final-edition/>

- **The Rules** contain the fundamental rules governing the Council's work as a charity, which can only be amended at a Council meeting.
- **Standing Orders** are byelaws subordinate to the Rules which may be amended by the new Executive from time to time (subject to the consent of Council members).
- **The Transition Motion**, prepared for consideration by the May 2018 Council meeting, defines how the new Rules and Standing Orders will take effect. The Transition Motion allows the Council's existing Decisions (policies and standards on matters of good practice) as amended at the May 2018 Council Meeting to be migrated across to become the third part of the new rulebook.

Central Council Web Site

Aylesbeare Branch

Cyril Charles Deem 1930 - 2018

Cyril was a larger than life character.

He achieved the equivalent of five 'O' levels at 16 but then had to go to work to support the family finances. He spent all his working life on the railway or industries associated with it although he was 'poached' to Jersey exporting tomatoes for six months in 1950 as he could speak French. He hated the smell of tomatoes for years afterwards.

He married his wife Daphne in 1957 (a lifelong non-ringing supporter) at Withycombe, Exmouth and they set up home in Feniton before moving to Exmouth four years later and had two children Joy and Neil. They celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary in February 2007, Daphne sadly passing away very shortly afterwards.

Cyril was very capable practically and resourceful; he derived great pleasure in turning out to help someone. He maintained the family car, was a skilled woodworker and could turn his hand to most things be it path laying, repairing a fence, laying concrete, decorating, rope splicing or basic plumbing to name but a few of his many skills.

He took a keen interest in First Aid, attending various British Rail competitions over the years. He probably saved a young boy's life after he had been hit by a car. Cyril was first on the scene and calmly took control of the situation until the ambulance arrived.

Bell ringing played an important part in his life. He learnt to ring at Withycombe in 1944 and he rang at 1680 different towers. He certainly trained up two bands over the years at Littleham and possibly a third as well.

We found 45 peals in his records and on Pealbase, his first in November 1947. They were mainly, on 5, 6 and 8 bells but also Stedman Cinques at Exeter in 1952. This band is still the youngest to have rung a peal on these famously heavy and difficult bells; Cyril strapped the tenor, no doubt there on account of his size and strength. He was elected to the ASCY in 1953. He was also a member of the Society of Roving ringers and he was remembered at their reunion in February in Devon.

However, he enjoyed ringing quarter peals more, ringing 1165 (560 with Neil). This allowed more time for talking and socialising afterwards, for he loved to be able to have a chat with people even if he had never met them before. He really enjoyed playing cards and was an excellent player. Cyril kept detailed records of all his ringing in a series of handwritten books. They provide a fascinating account of what and with whom he rang, why they were ringing, what he thought of the bells and quality of the ringing with little anecdotes on the day out.

The following ringing has taken place in his memory:-

- Quarter of Stedman Cinques at Llandaff Cathedral, Cardiff (14/1/18)
- Quarter of Bristol Maximus at Withycombe, Devon (14/1/18)
- Peal of Surprise Major at Aberavon, Port Talbot in Wales (20/1/18)
- Peal Surprise Major at Bovey Tracey, Devon (21/1/18)
- Quarter of Grandsire Triples at Littleham, Devon (23/1/18)
- Quarter of Mixed Doubles at North Cadbury, Somerset (30/1/18)

Sadly, his ringing started to reduce after 1997 when his health took a turn for the worse. He did still attend the occasional practice and managed to ring five or six quarter peals over the next ten years or so. However, during the last few years of his life he suffered from increasingly advanced dementia which finally took his life. A well-attended funeral service took place at Exeter Crematorium on 30th January with ringers attending from far and wide.

Neil Deem

Exeter Branch

Stop Press – Heather Somerwill

We have just heard the sad news that Heather Somerwill from Pinhoe passed away on 28th February. When her husband died in 1996 she donated the two treble bells at Pinhoe in his memory, making them up to eight and then learnt to ring herself. A staunch supporter of Pinhoe church (and church-warden for many years) Heather was the branch secretary for several years and continued to support the branch at all its functions even when she was no longer able to ring. We will miss seeing her around.

Ian Campbell

Ringling Accident results in Court Case



St Thomas Church, Exeter

Way back in April 2016 a Mr Spiteri asked to learn to ring at St Thomas, Exeter. Andy Stevens gladly took him on as a learner and before he started teaching gave him comprehensive initial safety tuition, including using a model bell, about the inherent dangers involved. When Mr Spiteri unfortunately broke a stay by pulling too hard, he took the shouted instruction of 'Let Go' and only suffered from a few rope burns as he released his grip on the rope.

However he did not appear to have learnt this lesson. A couple of weeks later, in an effort to counteract his over-pulling, he was learning on a heavier bell when the stay broke at backstroke and, despite clear instructions to the contrary, he hung on until he reached the ceiling, from where he fell to the ground and suffered from significant bruising although nothing was apparently broken, but it later transpired that he had broken a bone in his heel.

This unfortunate incident was quickly forgotten (and Mr Spiteri gave up ringing) until over a year later when we heard that he was going to sue the Church. The Church's insurance company decided to defend the case and an appointed loss adjuster interviewed Andy at length before producing an initial document which was later modified (around 70 paragraphs).

The case eventually came to court on January 4th 2018. Mr Spiteri's case was that, as his tutor, Andy had been negligent in his supervision and premature in using a heavier bell to compensate for his over-pulling. He also submitted that he had not had adequate tuition about the inherent dangers involved in ringing and that the model bell (taken to Court) had been broken when used initially in his tuition (untrue!). Andy was concerned whether the Judge and Barristers would completely understand the process of learning to ring and the terminology used so he utilised the model bell to help explain the situation. Four experienced ringers appeared as witnesses to back up Andy's statement.

Much to the relief of the ringers, after an hour's summarising and splitting hairs over the content of the witness statements, the judge finally dismissed the claim, although, according to current law, the Church's insurance still had to pay the costs. This judgement was particularly gratifying in view of the opinion of the ringers' barrister about the judge's reputation for bias towards the claimant in this sort of case. It's all a bit of a relief to have this case resolved after all this time.

Our administration was not criticised but having our working bell model available probably made a difference. Although Andy wrote a Risk Assessment after the accident, I think the advice of the Guild should be that all towers should have one copy for their own reference and one lodged with the clergy in their own church. The one Andy wrote can be made available to any interested tower.

Andy Stevens, Tower Captain, Exeter St Thomas

News from Exeter Cathedral

Exeter Cathedral Society AGM



Clare Griffiths (secretary), the Dean and Matt Hilling (master)

The AGM of the Exeter Cathedral Society of Ringers was held on January 22nd, presided over by the recently installed Dean, the Very Revd Jonathan Greener.

Morning ringing now takes place on at least three Sundays a month, helped regularly by bands from the Devon Association.

The officers were all re-elected en bloc and four new members were elected: David and Helen Maynard, Rebecca Harrison and Josephine Brown.

Major work to the bells is being undertaken between June and September when the bells will be out of action (see details elsewhere in this issue).

Preparations are already underway for the National Twelve Bell Competition which is coming to Exeter on 22nd June 2019.

Ian Campbell

Exeter Cathedral Bells to be Refurbished this Summer



Thomas 2 (second) showing button top.
The top is painted red but is actually a part of the casting of the bell.

Exeter Cathedral bells are well due for an overhaul; no major work has been carried out on the installation since 1978. With the bell frame designed and installed by John Taylors Bellhangers back in 1902 and only some minor works in 2003, the bells have remained untouched since then.

The very glory of the bells, cast over a period of 400 years, makes them difficult to ring as a complete peal. For example the clappers have many assorted designs which makes them strike at differing points in their swing, so making them hard to ring accurately. These and other problems need to be addressed to make the bells easier to ring.

The clappers will be replaced on the six largest bells and overhauled on the eight smaller bells. At the same time, the rope pulleys and bearings will be inspected and we will be re-routing the rope path for the second bell. The way that the bells hang from their headstocks is also not uniform so these are to be adjusted as necessary.

The treble and second bells (cast in 1923) have an unusual design with 'button tops' which were cast as part of the bells and are used to bolt them to their headstocks. Unfortunately this makes them swing rather more slowly than is desirable, again making them harder to ring accurately. These button tops will be removed as part of the work and the bells will be bolted directly to their headstocks.

We also need to carry out maintenance and introduce new safety measures to improve access to the bells; the bell frame is rusting, so it will be cleaned down and painted – a massive job on such a large scale. The bell frame will also be strengthened with two new foundation beams beneath the ninth and tenor pits; this will involve hiring a crane so that the beams can be hoisted up to the tower. A new fixed walkway will be installed over the bells to replace an existing temporary platform, and a welded mesh safety cage fitted around the south and east side of the bells to allow safe access to the belfry – this cage will mean we can leave the heaviest bells in the up position ready to ring at times,

saving us much energy and time. It will also mean that we will also be able to welcome visitors safely in to see the bells.

Taylor's Bellhangers will once again be managing this major project, with the work scheduled to begin in July and be completed by September. During this time, the Cathedral bells will fall silent.

This is a costly programme. Over three years, the Cathedral ringers have raised £41,000 through a scheme of member donations and gift aid and secured a grant of £8,500 from the Devon Church Bell Restoration Fund. The total cost of the work though will be £75,000, with the frame painting alone costing £15,000. We are still actively seeking grants so that all the necessary work can go ahead – further updates will follow.

Clare Griffiths and Ian Campbell
Photo by Tim King

Exeter Cathedral Ringing on Television

The edition of Great British Railway Journeys which was filmed at Exeter Cathedral was broadcast on Thursday 11th January. My standard joke while climbing the staircase now goes down into posterity:

Michael Portillo: Gosh Ian, how many steps are there?
Ian Campbell: There are a lot – but if you take them two at a time there are only half as many!

This series is based around the Edwardian period. The specific interest with the Cathedral bells revolves around the work done in 1902 when Taylor's installed the massive iron frame and recast the tenor (Grandisson) and the 7th (Fox). The latter had an Edwardian penny cast into it which can still be clearly seen although it could do with polishing up a bit!

With a little help Michael Portillo was able to swing Grandisson until it started chiming, and then rang some backstrokes on Fox.

It is amazing how just over four minutes of programme took two full mornings to film!

Ian Campbell

Tenor Bell Bolts Replaced

As reported in the previous edition, one of the four bell bolts on the tenor at the cathedral had broken just before the carol service and had to be replaced at short notice. The photo shows the broken bolt together with one of the others that was replaced at the same time. These bolts are LARGE and it goes to show the enormous amount of strain that all of the fittings are under.



The broken bell bolt from Grandisson
Ian Campbell

Embarrassing Pictures of David Hird no.3



Celebrating Christmas by ringing while wearing antlers

Exeter Colleges Guild
ECG Dinner



The unique clock face at Buckland in the Moor

The ECG dinner was held on Saturday 3rd February at the Rougement Hotel in Exeter with Hannah Taylor (née Wilby) as the guest speaker. It was preceded by ringing at Buckland and Widecombe in the Moor, with ringing at Lustleigh after lunch. Ceilidh dancing carried on after the meal until midnight. Despite this, many ringers still turned up for ringing at local towers for Sunday morning ringing and the weekend was finished off by the traditional visit to the Cathedral.



Hannah Taylor giving her speech

Ian Campbell

Mid-Devon Branch

Extracts from Mid Devon Tower Talk

St Marychurch 'Christmas Card' Collection

Like many towers the ringers at St Marychurch sent each other Christmas cards until a few years ago it was suggested that we should make a collection in lieu of cards to be given to a local Charity. This year it was decided to make the collection for our local Hospice – Rowcroft which is desperately in need of funds. Most of you will have seen our tower mascot 'Dipsy'. Wendy Rennie has persuaded her daughter, Naomi, to dress Dipsy in a variety of costumes so s/he has a very large wardrobe. For our 'Christmas Card' Naomi made a woollen Nativity set and Martin produced a 'stable' to house them in. This made a lovely centre-piece for our collection and we are delighted to say that a total of £88 was donated to Rowcroft. Many thanks to all our ringers and regular visitors for their generosity.



The knitted nativity set

Stokeinteignhead Christmas tree festival

As mentioned last month, Stokeinteignhead held a Christmas tree festival in December. It ran from Friday until Monday evening with ringing marking the beginning and end of the festival. It was obvious from the outset that much time and thought had been put into each decoration. This year the decorators had been given a free hand as there was no overall theme. This had allowed imagination to know no bounds and a fascinating variety of trees was the result. A few examples were a tree by a film club decorated with thumbnail pictures of film stars and fliers for their forthcoming programme. A dental practice had used toothpaste tubes, tooth brushes and other tooth related objects to get their message across. The WI tree was covered in a variety of biscuits. The ringers were very well represented, and they had not only decorated a tree (with bells, of course!) but had also built a frieze of bells hanging from the Ringers' gallery.

All in all, this was a very impressive effort from this very active congregation.



The ringers' tree at Stokeinteignhead – it's got bells on!

Stokeinteignhead Christmas meal

It is great to know that Stokeinteignhead has, once more, a thriving band of ringers. Like many towers they need help to make sure the new recruits are given a good grounding and ringers from several local towers come along each Monday to support the training. As a celebration of their achievements and a way of thanking their helpers Rodney and Sheila Horder, along with Simon (Tower Captain) and Michelle Glanfield hosted a Christmas meal. Rodney and Sheila live in the 'Court House' in Maidencombe. This is an

amazing listed building which is centuries old. On the evening of the party it was buzzing as towards 30 ringers gathered together for good food and conversation. A co-operative meal had been assembled with superb Coronation Chicken as the centre-piece and a large variety of side dishes. Once everyone had made a very large hole in this it was time for Sweets and again there was a wide variety of delicious fare.

After we had eaten our fill we were split into two teams for two fun quizzes which definitely brought out the competitive side in many of the guests!! A great evening was had and all agreed that it made a superb way to end the year. Now back to more hard work!!

Berry Pomeroy Christmas Dinner

The Old Smokey House was the venue for a very convivial evening when the usual Monday practice gave way to celebration and a superb Christmas meal was enjoyed.

The Berry Pomeroy practice attracts ringers from quite a wide area being as it is one of the nearest method practices to the South Hams. This was reflected in the number present – all of whom enjoyed an evening of good food and relaxation.

St Marychurch Christmas Party

For quite some time the practice before Christmas has been given over to an evening of partying at Martin and Wena's house. This year was no exception. Everyone brought a contribution and the Mulled Wine was as popular as ever. A wide variety of nibbles and snacks were on offer and Paul and Janet Latham presided over several quizzes which kept us all racking our brains (not easy when the Mulled is flowing!!). Another great way to end the year.

January Branch practice – Brixham

At our Branch AGM it was very pleasing to hear that Brixham have re-joined the Guild, so it was great to have our first practice of the New Year there. A warm welcome was given even if it was a very cold night outside. Brixham bells are not the easiest but we managed a range of ringing from Call Changes on the middle six and back eight to Plain Bob Triples and even a course of Stedman Triples. Two members of the local band were able to ring rounds on ten for the first time. During the course of the evening several of the local band were elected to membership of the guild. We welcome them and really hope they enjoy getting about the branch and meeting everyone.

Philip adds another peal to his list!

Many congratulations to Philip Stevens who rang a peal (at Kings-Ting-Tong) on 9th January meaning that he has now rung a peal in 59 consecutive years (he started very young!). He also rang the tenor (42cwt) at Buckfast Abbey to a Quarter Peal of Grandsire Caters the day before – there's life in the 'Old Dog' yet! Keep it up!!

Guild website

Our newest branch officer – Anne Bailey – has not let the grass grow under her feet and has been making changes and updates to the branch pages on the Guild website. Have a look at our pages at - <http://devonringers.org.uk/>

If you have any updates or corrections, Anne will be very pleased to hear from you at tarmangie@btinternet.com.

Martin Mansley

Some thoughts on (finally!) ringing 200 peals

Having mentioned to a couple of our ringers that I had finally completed 200 peals, I was, somewhat reluctantly, persuaded that I should write down some details. Reluctant because we are surrounded by people who count their peals in thousands rather than hundreds so my total seemed very modest. On the other hand, I realised that it covers a lifetime of ringing so perhaps it was worth a few thoughts and the pealbase 'crystal ball' projects that I won't ring 1000 until 2068!! So I better not wait until then.

The 200 has prompted me to download all my details from the pealbase website. This is an amazing database of all peals rung since 1950. It is a statistic geek's treasure trove of information on peals. So, I thank Andrew Craddock for the statistics included.

My first peal came fairly hot on the heels of my first quarter peal which followed quite a number of losses mainly due to only having bob callers in our band and included one memorable attempt which came to grief due to their being a Robert in the band. The conductor said 'Bob lead now' and another member of the band made a bob when there shouldn't have been one!!

That first peal was on the treble to Plain Bob Minor and was after learning for over 8 years. Looking back it amazes me that I had only progressed to trebling after all that time! It does, I hope, make me more patient with learners! The first on 8 came fairly soon after and I had progressed to ringing inside but again at my home tower of Higher Walton in Lancashire. Over the next few years I added a few more at the very modest rate of 2 per year.

My work took me to Leicestershire in 1975 and the rate shot up. Purely by chance I found accommodation in the village of Oadby and on joining the local band found a group who were just starting to progress with surprise minor and, in Andrew Tyler, had a young conductor and composer of prodigious talent. I also rang with Brian (Gus) Warwick at South Wigston and the Friday band at All Saints Leicester where Alan Cattel often rang two bells. Progress was now much faster and even when moving to Wiltshire after 2 years I soon found a group who were progressive and looking to ring peals.

A final move to Devon in 1979 brought me into contact with John Longridge at St Mark's Exeter where Mike Mears was just getting into his stride with conducting. The first 18 months in Devon saw the highest rate of peal ringing so far. Then I had a change of heart and virtually gave up peals – concentrating on quarters. The few that I rang over the next 30 or so years were either for special occasions or when a band met short. The coming of retirement with much more time renewed my interest and the rate increased again until the 200th at Kings-ting-tong earlier this month.

A few statistics, then. First peal Plain Bob Minor on treble at Higher Walton Sunday 11th May 1969 in 3 hours. 100th Peal Withycombe Ralleigh 15th October 1979 5th to Superlative S Major. 200th Peal Kings-ting-tong 18th January 2018 2nd to 14 S minor Methods.

325 different ringers – Leading collaborators Mike Mears 77 Mary Mears 33 Robert Brown 32. Leading societies GDR 103, Leicester DG 39 Lancashire Association 24. 114 different peal venues, St Marychurch 14 South Wigston 13 Thorverton 12. Most obscure location -the floor over a total immersion font in a Baptist church in Kendal for a handbell peal starting at 11pm and ending at 1 am!

A few highlights –

- Calling Holts one part peal of Grandsire Triples using a 'story' as a memory aid.
- Three peals we rang where all the ringers were called Martin – good ringing and excellent company culminating in Stedman Cinques at St Magnus the Martyr.
- The first peal on the rehung 8 at St Marychurch after all

the hard work of the rehang and the first peal on the 10 which completed the job.

Some really good peals –

- Grandsire Caters for Don Roberts' 80th birthday – I rang the tenor at St Marychurch and it was sustained high quality ringing.
- 41 Surprise Minor methods at Thorverton – quite a lot of brain strain but a good peal.
- Higher Walton Surprise at Highweek for my 65th birthday – another cracking peal and a pleasure to be in.
- Finally, Cornwall Surprise at Berry Pomeroy – good ringing and a great pleasure to finally score on these bells.

Almost 49 years of peal ringing, 1,007,387 changes in 563 hours 12 minutes. Thanks to all the ringers who have shared those hours on the end of bell ropes – I often think the outside world must think us totally potty spending all those hours in draughty bell towers when we could be at home watching East Enders or Strictly Well, perhaps not!

One final thought – that first peal was relatively easy to be invited into – the next few were definitely a learning curve and not particularly good – if I had not had bands willing to put up with a lower standard I would not have been able to progress. We must encourage new ringers and invite them to ring longer lengths, either quarters or peals, or ringing will suffer in the long term.

Martin Mansley

The George Tribe Mini Ring - Quarter-Peal Success



The successful quarter peal band



The ropes still fall rather close to each other!



The George Tribe ring in their borrowed frame



Ignore the label for the moment...

Readers will recall the article by the editor, published in last December's RRD, in which details were reported of the re-hanging of the George Tribe Mini Ring in the frame used to house the Frank Mack bells. This article serves to follow up that earlier report, and detail how we finally got to score a quarter peal!

The bells were originally intended as a demonstration ring and probably not meant for method ringing. George Tribe, a call change ringer at Pilton, near Barnstaple built the frame and bells as a working model to show how bells are rung and hung. They are normally housed at the St Petrock's Ringing Centre in Exeter, but during the recent restoration work there they were moved to Kingsteignton for safe keeping.

There were a couple of attempts at a quarter peal on them during the St Michael's, Kingsteignton ringing festival last September when they were set up in the vestry in their original frame, but neither of these got past a few leads. The biggest problem with trying to ring them was that the ropes fell inside the small wooden frame (see photo attached to previous article), into which it was necessary to reach to ring. The ropes were drawn by means of slim wooden chutes in order for them to fall a reasonable distance apart. Following these failed attempts Ian Avery came up with the idea of hanging them in the frame used for the Frank Mack ring. He made a temporary wooden support into which the George Tribe ring could sit and this was placed inside the

Frank Mack frame. This immediately made life much easier as we could actually stand under the bells! We temporarily swapped the original home-made ropes (which were really too light and flimsy to be able to control the bells reliably) for the heavier ropes used for the Frank Mack ring. Doing away with the rope guides meant the circle was very irregular (with the 4th and 5th falling just a couple of inches apart) but this also contributed to making the handling easier as the ropes actually came down in a straight line. The front three bells are considerably smaller than the back three bells and very flighty to ring, which also contributes towards the difficulty of actually ringing them at all.

An evening was booked for a quarter peal attempt (this quickly evolved into a succession of attempts as we quickly became aware that this was still a huge challenge!) These varied in length from a couple of leads initially, to ringing the 720, only to fail in the 540! Still, we had proven it would be possible, but with Christmas on the horizon the bells could no longer stay in Kingsteignton Church. They were moved to Bishopsteignton and erected at 'Tamarisk' where they were installed in James and Elaine Grant's dining room. James clamped some additional bracing to the frame which reduced the oscillating movement considerably and kept the whole installation much more rigid. This proved to be the final piece in the puzzle and I'm pleased to say that following all these adaptations we rang a quarter-peal at the first attempt, much to the relief of the band! We chose to ring Plain Bob Minor so the hugely risky process of dodging was kept to a absolute minimum, thus allowing the ringers to concentrate fully on keeping their bells up!

As we had no idea of the weight of the tenor, it was removed from its fittings following the quarter and weighed using Elaine's kitchen scales! It turned out to be exactly 4lbs.

Never has a quarter of Plain Bob Minor been so hard won! The suggestion of a peal was made at the conclusion of the December article - I think we will leave that for another day..... and another band! Details of the quarter are as follows.

'Tamarisk', Bishopsteignton
George Tribe Mini Ring
Friday, 22nd December 2017

1260 Plain Bob Minor in 32 mins. Tenor 4lbs

- | | |
|---------------|--------------------|
| 1. Nigel Birt | 4. Elaine Grant |
| 2. Ian Avery | 5. Sue Sawyer |
| 3. Will Carew | 6. James Grant (C) |

1st quarter-peal on the bells.

Nigel Birt

North East Branch

Wilf Dunn 1925 – 2017



Wilfred Ernest Dunn (Wilf) was born in Honiton in April 1925, the son of a blacksmith. The family moved to Bampton where Wilf was apprenticed as a carpenter and wheelwright and it was here that he gained a lifelong association with working in wood – something he enjoyed as a hobby in later

life. Always a very practical man, he joined the RAF in the Second World War and was stationed at Redhill as an aircraft engineer. It was while living in Redhill that he met and married his wife, Phyllis. The family remained in Surrey until Wilf's retirement in the mid-1980s. It was then that Wilf and Phyll moved back to Devon, settling in Tiverton.

Wilf learnt to ring at Nutfield in Surrey in 1951 and then moved to the ten bell tower at Reigate. Over his ringing career he rang 2,611 quarter peals and 21 peals, conducting 883 of the quarters. So, when he returned to Devon he was a valuable addition to the band at St Peter's, Tiverton. Mid-week quarter peal ringing became an established part of his Devon life with the 'Wednesday Band' roving widely over Devon and Somerset. Wilf organised and conducted many of these and kept his fellow ringers to time and on task with ruthless efficiency! He continued ringing regularly at St Peter's until heart problems forced him to make the 'Tiverton transfer' to the ground-floor ring at St Paul's. He continued his Sunday ringing, despite health problems, until 2016.

Wilf's love for, and skills in, wood-turning and bell ringing were closely connected. A number of towers in Devon and Somerset boast fine turned-wood rope spiders. St Peter's has a beautiful donation pot in the shape of a bell in wood, while a fine chairman's gavel was made for Les Boyce to use at North East Branch meetings. Another lasting legacy was the gift of the 'St. Peter's Shield' to Tiverton for an annual striking competition which unusually allows both call change and method ringing bands to compete using the two styles in the same event. The 'St. Peter's Shield' competition has been running now for over 20 years.

Wilf's gifts to local towers and his devotion to caring for Phyllis in her later years show his generous nature and love of family. His homes both in Surrey and Devon reflected his concern for family life and home-building through his skills in DIY and gardening. In addition to this and his bell ringing he found time to play pétanque at Halberton.

Wilf died on Christmas Eve 2017 and his funeral at Bampton on 8th January was an occasion for ringers across Devon and Somerset to gather in memory of him. He leaves his wife, Phyllis and his son, Colin and daughter, Julie. May he rest in peace.

I am grateful to the Rev Kevin Chandra and Colin Dunn for supplying information about Wilf.

Les Boyce

First Inside Quarter Peal

It was a drizzly and cold Saturday afternoon in January when I arrived to find a group of willing volunteers gathered outside the Minster Church of St Mary in Axminster. Honiton tower captain, Derek Ballard, had gathered together a confident band of ringers to help me achieve the goal of ringing my first quarter peal on an inside bell.

As a young man I had been taught to ring by an excellent band in my home town of Warwick. I had tried to learn Bob Doubles but could never grasp an understanding of the calls so never progressed beyond a plain course. I did manage quarter peals on tenor and treble but felt I would never succeed on an inside bell.

Moving away from Warwick, initially to study, I lost contact with ringing for around twenty-five years until I found myself living in Axminster with some time on my hands and joined the band of call change ringers at the Minster. Last summer I was invited to a practice night at Honiton to have a go at Plain Hunt and enjoyed it so much that I continued turning up at their practice nights. The team there have been patiently teaching me the basic methods.

Learning Bob Doubles brought back memories of my teens and that thought that I would never ring a quarter peal on an inside bell. It also gave me the determination to achieve that which had previously eluded me. It has been many

years since a member of the Axminster band has attempted a quarter peal as the tower is predominantly a call change tower. However as ringers come and go and the capability of the band changes we now find ourselves with a number of ringers with past experience of method ringing and are willing to give it another go. Together with Kilminster and the support of neighbouring towers we have enough experience to begin to learn methods. It was for this reason that I wanted my first attempt at an inside quarter to be at Axminster.

Derek offered to put together a band of experienced ringers to give the best possible chance of success and also to conduct the quarter. On the last Saturday in January I successfully rang a quarter peal of Plain Bob Doubles on the fourth bell of my home tower. As the strength of our home band increases I hope that it will not be too long before method ringing becomes once again regularly enjoyed at Axminster.



Left to right: Trevor Hitchcock 1, Lisa Clarke 2, Kathy Matthews 3, Peter Simpson 4, Derek Ballard (c) 5 and Richard Howe 6.

Axminster, Devon, St Mary
Saturday, 27 January 2018 in 43 mins
1260 Plain Bob Doubles

1 Trevor Hitchcock	4 Peter Simpson
2 Lisa Clarke	5 Derek Ballard (C)
3 Kathie Matthews	6 Richard Howe

1st in method and 1st on inside bell 4

Peter Simpson - Axminster

North East Branch Young Ringers



Handbells are becoming a favourite activity with the NE Young Ringers, thanks to Liz Chadwick, who ably leads the handbell ringing. This half term Red, Flo and Alanna demonstrated to the tower bell helpers a plain course of Plain Hunt Minor. Achievements in the ringing room were no less spectacular. Our newest recruits Finley and Ella rang rounds with help and Red & Flo took turns to ring the treble to doubles and the tenor behind.

We have also taken the opportunity during half term to attempt some quarter peals. Flo achieved a quarter peal on the treble at the first attempt. Unfortunately the attempt for Red, two days later, was interrupted by the wedding party who had rescheduled the rehearsal without informing the ringers. My thanks go to all those who have supported the Young Ringers during the week.

Huntsham, Devon, All Saints
Wednesday, 14 February 2018

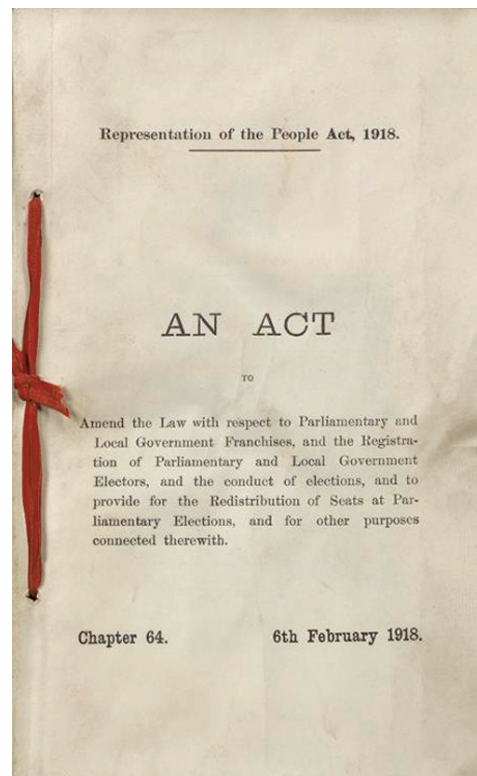
1260 Plain Bob Doubles

1 Flo Jones	4 Sheila Scofield (C)
2 Jenny Jones	5 Michael Hatchett
3 Brian Samuels	6 Hazel Turner

1. First QP at 1st attempt

Sheila Scofield

VOTES FOR WOMEN



Imagine what ringing would be like if women were not allowed to ring bells. Most towers would be desperately short of ringers and all would find difficulty in maintaining regular service ringing. Remember then that until just 100 years ago women were not allowed to vote and certainly not be Members of Parliament. Think and wonder what a loss this was to government and politics across the country.

The centenary of 'The Representation of the People Act 1918', when women of property aged over 30 were first given the right to vote, was an occasion to be celebrated. The East Devon Ladies, founder members of the Jurassic Ladies Group, rang a quarter peal at St Andrew's Church Feniton on the anniversary of the Act:

Feniton, Devon, St Andrew
Tuesday, 6 February 2018 in 42 mins
1260 Doubles (5m)

60 Stedman, 480 Grandsire, 240 St Martin's, 240 St Simon's,	4 Kathie Matthews
240 Plain Bob	5 Anne Bailey
1 Maureen Davey	6 Delie Perry
2 Janet Ritterman	
3 Lisa Clarke (C)	

Rung by the original members of the East Devon Ladies to mark the centenary of The Representation of the People Act 1918 which gave women of property over the age of 30 the right to vote. Women achieved full equality regarding suffrage in 1928.



L to R: Lisa Clarke, Kathy Matthews, Janet Ritterman, Anne Bailey, Delie Perry and Maureen Davey

100 years ago there were groups, equally as vociferous as the Suffragettes, campaigning against giving women the right to vote. It is pleasing to note that today there were no such protesters outside the church, trying to stop the ladies ringing. No doubt these ladies now have it in mind to ring another quarter in July 2028 to mark the centenary of the day when women finally achieved the same right to vote as men.

Trevor Hitchcock

South West Branch

One Year On!

The first anniversary of the South Hams method ringing practices will be in March 2018. These have been held at West Charleton on every first Tuesday of every month. This has been quite an achievement considering how tucked away we are in the South Hams. The evening is run by Bob Sanders and we mostly get between six and eight ringers of all abilities. We Plain Hunt, do some Kaleidoscope ringing, Bob Doubles/Minor, Stedman and Grandsire doubles and currently have homework to learn Primrose for the next practice on March 6th at 7:30pm. Any ringer will be made welcome.

Please call in if you are in the area visiting family or on your way back from a day out; it is in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty so worth a visit:

- West Charleton, 6 bells, tenor 9.25cwt, ground floor ring
- The 'Ashburton Arms' is walkable from the church!
- Contact- margaret.berndt@btinternet.com

Maggie Berndt

Salcombe Open Tower and South West Branch AGM

On the 27th January the South West Branch AGM was held at Salcombe's Holy Trinity church. The day began with an Open Tower event where the locals and visitors to Salcombe were invited to learn more about bell ringing and give it a go. We have since heard that some visitors from Gloucestershire who came along to have a go have been learning to ring in their home tower!

Open ringing followed, along with a very informative talk on judging striking by Ian Smith, which helped a lot of the newer ringers amongst us to understand what exactly is being listened for when it comes to striking accurately and seems to have made a difference!



Jess receiving her Guild Certificate



Ed receiving his Guild Certificate

The AGM went smoothly and presented an opportunity to elect new members and officers ahead of what promises to be an exciting year for ringing. It was also a chance to congratulate both Jess and Ed who received their Guild Certificates having completed their first quarter peals.

Elena Brake

Emmanuel Spring Clean and Annual Dinner

On the 10th February the local band at Emmanuel, Plymouth got together with a lot of cleaning materials to clean the tower. The ringing chamber, staircase and belfry were swept, dusted, polished and vacuumed and the bells themselves received a once-over from Alena and Glenn to ensure everything was running well.

It all made a huge difference and was well timed in preparation for the Armistice 100 Open Tower event on the 24th February. Afterwards, we all went home to change into our nicer clothes and headed out for our annual dinner at The Hunting Lodge. It was a lovely evening with great food - they do an excellent carvery - and lots of laughs all round.



An interesting technique - James sweeps the wall at Emmanuel, Plymouth



Polaroids taken by James at the annual dinner

Elena Brake

Other News

Devon Ringers' Council Competitions

The annual call change competitions arranged by the Devon Ringers' Council are to be held on Saturday 28th April. These are open to both Guild and Association members.

The 10-bell call change competition for the John Scott Trophy will take place at Withycombe Raleigh with the draw at 10am.

An 8-bell competition will take place at Littleham commencing at 2.00pm and a 6 bell competition at Lymstone commencing at 4.00pm.

Meal and results will be organised for the evening – venue to be confirmed.

Ian Avery

Thank you Lunch at Buckfast Abbey



Some of the assembled company

For the second year, the authorities at Buckfast Abbey thanked the ringers who had manned the bells for services during the year. Forty-six ringers, from both the Guild and the Association, sat down to lunch at Northgate House (part of the Abbey complex) on Sunday January 7th. It was particularly pleasing that the warden, Geoff Pring, was able to attend. He recently learnt to handle a bell at Buckfastleigh and now rings at the Abbey whenever he can.

Following the meal we were given some idea of the Abbey's Millennium Celebrations which includes a request for a peal to be rung while the Abbot's way is walked, over the moor from Tavistock to Buckfast. The idea is that the walkers will be able to hear the bells as they approach the end of their journey.

As a further part of the celebrations it is proposed to have a 'Buckfast Abbey Millennium Bellringing Festival' on Saturday August 11th. It is hoped to have workshops, handbell ringing, mini rings, an exhibition of ringing, maybe trade stands, ringing sessions both timed (for complete bands) and open sessions for general ringing. There will be a service of celebration in the afternoon with the ringers' choir and a BBQ lunch. Tea (hopefully) will be provided by the Abbey after the service. All this is work in progress but please make a note in your diaries.

Peter Bill

Training

Tavistock

After much scattering of the publicity posters and flyers supplied by Tim Bayton, Lynne Hughes and Victoria Tucker, Tavistock opened its tower doors to a grand total of 24 interested visitors on 24th February. Half a dozen of our own ringers welcomed them, demonstrating the workings of a bell on models and then ringing on the front six. Finally all who wanted a hands-on experience were given a try on the two dumb bells. Seven or eight were keen to take it further; two were thinking of going to their local towers at Lamerton and Whitchurch, and the rest, being local to the town, have decided to attend Tavistock's practice on Tuesday evening.

To this end, we started our practice half an hour early, at 7 pm, giving the first hour or so to the new learners. We were very pleased when six turned up as promised and were given instruction on the first elements of handling. All indicated that they would be coming again.

It was especially good to find that at least two were lapsed ringers who are keen to return to the Exercise, spurred on by the publicity they had seen, and it behoves us to continue to keep ringing in the public eye and consolidate on this excellent start.

Thanks to Tim, Lynne and Victoria who did so much to get this initiative off the ground (and into the tower).

Donna Baker, Secretary, Tavistock

Ringling for Peace

Armistice 100

BATTLE'S OVER



A NATION'S TRIBUTE

11TH NOVEMBER 2018

100 YEARS OF REMEMBRANCE

A national campaign, 'Ringing Remembers', has been launched linked to the centenary of the end of World War 1 in November 2018. It is funded by the Department for Communities and Local Government and organised by the Big Ideas Company in partnership with the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers. The aim of the campaign is to recruit and train 1,400 new ringers before next November in honour of those ringers who were lost in the Great War.

For Devon, Tim Bayton (Guild education officer) arranged a recruitment drive involving both the Guild and the Association, inviting members of the public to 'have a go' at eight towers throughout the county between 10 am and 12 noon on Saturday 24th February. At each tower, enough ringers were signed up to be able to demonstrate what ringing was about and to help with people having a go. Our instructions were to include:

- Health and safety in the tower (keep feet on the floor, don't touch ropes etc.)
- General explanation of what is in the tower (how many bells, how heavy etc.)
- What ringing involves (practice nights, services, weddings, outings, competitions... be clear that it is a lifetime's hobby, not something to learn in 6 months then give up)
- Opportunity to have a go
- Information about local practices, invitation to a local practice if appropriate

Every visitor was asked to provide contact details which were forwarded to Tim after the session. Individual reports from some towers are included below.

Publicity was driven by Association publicity officer Victoria Tucker and most towers had a good attendance.

Since the big open morning, Tim has been contacting those who left their details and matching them up with places where they can be taught to ring.

If you would like to know more about Battle's Over please visit their website; <http://www.brunopeek.co.uk/battles-over.php>

Tim Bayton

Plymouth, Emmanuel

Emmanuel church, Plymouth saw 20 people visit each of whom had a chance to have a go at ringing, watch some ringing and go upstairs to see the bells themselves. Contact details were taken for each of the guests who came, and they will be matched with the most suitable tower to learn should they choose to take it up. Overall it was a very successful morning and we are hopeful that we may have inspired a few new recruits.



Glenn showing the ropes to a visitor from Bridport



Armistice 100 Open Tower Event at Emmanuel

Elena Brake

Exeter St Petrock's

Being in the centre of the town and a ground floor ring, St Petrock's was an ideal location. The Guild and the Association were well represented and following a steady stream of guests about 16 people signed up. One or two had rung previously while three or four appeared to be 'natural' ringers and one was handling a bell on his own after a few minutes.

We are now looking at teaching basic handling to some of the new recruits in special sessions at Pinhoe, while others will be learning at Heavitree and St Mark's. It was particularly gratifying to find two potential ringers who live in Stoke Canon, where it is hoped to build up a new band of ringers.

Ian Campbell

Home from Home – Tulloch Works its Magic

I live in Sidmouth, and I have been learning to ring at the Parish Church there for the past 18 months with Tower Captain Anne Bailey. Anne is a brilliant teacher who is taking me on my 'Learning the Ropes' journey very patiently and skilfully. It's a great way to learn. She is also a mine of information and mentioned the Tulloch Training Course to me when I asked her about possible training courses.

I was intrigued by Tulloch being an unusual secular ring up in the West Highlands of Scotland, and with a Scottish husband I thought we might go there and combine it with visits to friends and family. I thought I'd give it a try, despite the long journey to get there!

I had huge anticipation of how the course would be and was pretty excited about it, taking time off work specially to go. I imagined how the place would be and what my accommodation would be like, but as it turned out the centre was nothing like I had imagined it, and neither was where I stayed. My 'cottage' was neither cold nor damp – which I thought it might be – but a toasty warm little bungalow! It was quite modern with a coal fire, radiators and night storage heaters too. It had a lovely friendly feel to it, with a huge modern kitchen where I enjoyed the company of the three fellow-ringers that I shared it with. We had a lot of laughs. (My husband didn't join me in the end).

As for the ringing centre at Tulloch, I had imagined a huge, draughty barn, like an enormous church tower with bells visible hanging high overhead, but it was actually a newly refurbished, purpose-designed building with two ringing chambers, both cosy and comfy, a big kitchen, a front hall/reception area, and a nice big seating area with settees and a roaring wood burner. And on top of that, there were endless supplies of coffee, biscuits and cake – plus a delicious lunch every day. The home-made soup was lush! It had a 'family' feel to it. A real home from home.

The bells were much lighter than I had expected, so needed very careful handling. The bigger chamber has 12 bells in it, with the heaviest being lighter than my normal 'number 4' bell in my home tower. The lightest bells were like 'tinker-bells' in sound. We only rang the lightest bells on the last day when we rang all 12 bells in rounds, and then did 'Kaleidoscope' and 'Mexican Wave' which was fun.

The smaller ringing tower had 8 very light bells too, but they handled beautifully. I just needed to be careful not to bump the stay! The final room housed a dumbbell attached to a simulator which I honestly had to 'grapple with' – it was not my favourite thing to use! I didn't cope well with it at all, but I gave it a go!

However, the best thing on the course for me was my discovery of the joy of ringing handbells. Definitely my favourite part of the week – and whenever I wanted to spend time on the handbells having a go at a method there were plenty of opportunities to do so, which was great. And

I got quite good at it in a short space of time. As Helen, the course leader told me, ringing the handbells really does help your tower bell ringing. I could not agree more. It gave me a far greater understanding of 'the overview' of what all 6 bells are all doing in relation to each other, instead of fixating (as beginners like me do) on just my one bell and how to handle it. It helps you listen to the music of the method, too.

So my main motivation since coming back home is to get going with two other ringers and liberate the handbells which I didn't even know we had on the tower windowsill! I am also enjoying using the far greater understanding that I gained at Tulloch – thanks to my brilliant tutor, Stephen – at reading various methods and studying 'the blue line', which is now no longer a mystery to me. Hurrah!

My raising and lowering in peal is still 'work in progress' and handling will always need to improve, but we worked hard and spent a long time on both those aspects of ringing on the course, as we did on basic handling skills.

So, again, these are aspects of the course that I have reflected on since returning to my home tower. I am not afraid to raise or lower my bell now, which is a step in the right direction.

My ropesight was already not bad, but since the course I have realised it is quite good! I am generally more ready to 'have a go' at different things, too. Like hunting on inside bells, covering (which I did a lot on the course) and ringing the treble to a variety of different methods. I am enjoying doing it all, now I am back at my home tower.

Article first published in Tower Talk (produced by ART), see: http://ringingteachers.org/application/files/4515/1538/1402/Tower_Talk_6.pdf

Sue King, Sidmouth

Monday Ringers

Lynne Hughes regularly arranges a few towers around Devon where ringers who are not at work can ring on a Monday. She will always welcome additional ringers.

The next outing of the Monday Ringers is on 19th March (a Monday of course!). The programme for the day is:

- 9.45 Ermington
- 11.15 Plympton: St Mary
- 12.30 Lunch at the Chaddlewood Inn in Plympton
- 1.45 Plymouth: Egg Buckland
- 2.45 Plymouth (Compton Gifford): Emmanuel
- 4.15 Plymouth (Tamerton Foliot): St Mary

All are welcome with a minimum of competent trebling or covering. The more the merrier!

Lynne Hughes

ART Course fully booked

This is to let you know that the ART Module 1 (Teaching Bell Handling) day course on 17th March at Pinhoe has attracted a lot of interest and all places are now taken. Booking through the ART website is now closed.

Another Module 1 course is planned for 27th October and places can be booked now through the ART website at <https://smartringer.org/public/daycourses/>.

In the light of the current Guild and Association recruitment campaign, if anyone who has not been able to get a place on the 17th March is keen to attend this course before the autumn, please contact me. If numbers are sufficient to warrant an extra course, I will do my best to set one up before the end of June. In trying to avoid clashing with the main Association and Guild events, Saturday 2nd June seems a possible date, or I would be prepared to consider running it on a Friday.

Les Boyce

A Day and a bit in the Life of the Education Officer

07.00 Alarm 1: I have no idea why the alarm went off this early; it is normally set for 08.00.

07.30 Alarm 2: This is not my alarm but it is very loud and wakes me a second time.

08.00 Alarm 3: Having reset my alarm the correct time, I must not fall asleep again now.

08.10 I finally get out of bed.

09.00 Thank goodness I made a packed lunch last night. However, there is one more vital preparation to make for a day of ringing: a flask of tea.

09.15 I set off from home for the first tower of the day.

10.00 Seaton: One of my resolutions for 2018 is to try to support the East Devon Surprise Major practice. Not having been a regular visitor to this practice in the past, today I am checking out how it is run and who benefits from the practice. I resolve that my support for this practice should, as far as possible, be to ensure attendance by one or two more advanced ringers and hopefully at least one conductor.

12.00 With a little time to spare before the afternoon's activities, there is time to squeeze in a handbell quarter peal before lunch. This is a beneficial extra practice for one of my regular learners.

12.45 A few minutes to relax and to eat a packed lunch. The ringing master and I discuss the morning's practice, the potential for future practices, and other practices in the area.

13.10 There should be time for a comfortably unhurried journey to the afternoon tower.

13.55 I arrive at Withycombe Raleigh with only five minutes to spare.

14.00 At the Guild 'Introduction to 10-Bell Ringing' I am expecting fourteen students and nine helpers for what promises to be a busy afternoon. In the end, eleven students and nine helpers turn up, still resulting in a busy practice with lots of people to cater for at various levels. All students have a go at Plain Hunt Caters and some try Grandsire Caters, one even has a go at ringing the treble to Surprise Royal. The focus of the afternoon is on good striking, so plenty of rounds and call changes are rung and there are numerous opportunities to practise holding up the first backstroke.

16.50 All eleven students have improved noticeably over the course of a tiring afternoon, the helpers and I are exhausted, so we finish the practice a few minutes early.

17.30 Time to get a load of washing in the machine.

17.45 Before I forget and before Sunday morning ringing, I phone a tower captain and a branch ringing master to discuss the progress of their learners this afternoon. I hope that the learning will continue to be reinforced in the coming weeks, so that the benefit of the afternoon is not lost.

17.55 Whilst on the phone, I receive a message suggesting that I meet my partner and some friends in the pub. What a fantastic idea!

18.15 Having finished on the phone, I put on my shoes and coat then receive another message: my partner is now coming home for dinner, so I am too late to go to the pub. I am grateful to be spared the fifteen-minute walk, but disappointed to miss out on a drink. Time to make dinner instead.

19.30 After dinner, having sorted the washing, I open what I consider to be a well-earned bottle of beer and sit down to enjoy a film on television.

00.40 After watching two films as well as consuming a bar of chocolate and a couple of glasses of port, I have no problem getting to sleep.

08.00 Even with the alarm at the right time, getting up in time to ring for service is challenging.

08.40 As I am running ten minutes late by the time I leave the house, I am very grateful for a lift from another ringer who happens to be passing my door at exactly the right time.

Tim Bayton

Handbell Demonstration at the Priory



Members of the Caledonian Society trying their skill at handbell ringing

The Caledonian Society needed some entertainment on a damp Sunday afternoon so we went to the rather unlikely venue of St Katherine's Priory in Exeter to ring handbells. The Guild demonstration bell was taken to illustrate tower bell ringing and the reasons for how changes are constructed – unfortunately the ceiling was too low to install it properly. Change ringing on one to eight handbells was demonstrated and to finish members of the society were invited to 'lap' the handbells themselves.

As always with these events, considerable interest was invoked and we may even gain one or two new recruits. I am grateful to Tim Bayton, Lynne Hughes and David Maynard for giving up their Sunday afternoon to help.

Ian Campbell

Notable Ringing Events

Ladies Quarter Peal at Exeter Cathedral

The twelve bells of Exeter Cathedral (tenor 72cwt) are not known for being easy to ring so special congratulations go to the team of ladies who rang a quarter peal of Stedman Cinques to commemorate the centenary of ladies being given the vote in England. All but two of the ringers are members of the cathedral band.



Front (r to l): Wendy, Sue, Clare, Charlotte, Lynne, Sarah; Back (l to r): Susan, Hilary, Jenny, Alison, Pauline, Steph, Rebecca.

Exeter, Devon, Cathedral Church of St Peter
Tuesday, 6 February 2018 in 60 mins
1251 Stedman Cinques

1 Wendy Campbell	7 Susan Sparling
2 Sue Sawyer	8 Hilary Beresford
3 Clare Griffiths	9 Jenny Sparling
4 Charlotte Boyce	10 Alison Waterson
5 Lynne Hughes	11 Pauline McKenzie (C)
6 Sarah Chadburn	12 Rebecca Harrison and Steph Hills

Rung by 11 members of the Exeter Cathedral Society and two regular visitors, for the centenary of the Representation of the People Act 1918.

Ian Campbell

Notable Peals Rung

60th anniversary of Roger King's first peal

HOPE, FLINTSHIRE.
THE NORTH WALES ASSOCIATION.
On Thurs., Dec. 26, 1957, in 2 Hours and 37 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. CYNEARSH,
A PEAL OF 5040 PLAIN BOB DOUBLES
Being 42 extents (four callings). Tenor 10 cwt.
*ROGER KING (15) Treble †GEOFFREY PARTING 4
*HENRY A. PRICE 2 †DESMOND F. CLAYS 5
HENRY O. BAKER 3 *THOMAS C. MILLINGTON Tenor
Conducted by HENRY O. BAKER.
* First peal. † First peal in the method 'inside.'
A birthday compliment to Mrs. H. O. Baker.

Details of Roger's first peal from *The Ringing World*

Roger King rang his first peal at the tender age of 15 on Boxing Day, 1957. On the 60th anniversary he again rang a peal, in a method specially created for the occasion.

East Budleigh, Devon, All Saints
Tuesday, 26 December 2017 in 2hrs 48m
5152 Jolly Roger's Delight Major
Composed by Robert D S Brown

1 James Kirkcaldy	5 Robert D S Brown
2 Roger King	6 Michael H Tompsett
3 Susan D Sparling	7 Peter J Sawyer
4 Richard H Johnston	8 Michael E C Mears (C)

On the 60th anniversary of Jolly Roger's first peal
First Peal in the method

Mike Tompsett's 70th birthday

Thorverton, Devon, St Thomas of Canterbury
Thursday, 18 January 2018 in 2hrs 53m
5000 Bristol Surprise Royal
Composed by D F Morrison (No 290)

1 Susan D Sparling	6 Graham P Tucker
2 Pauline McKenzie	7 Michael H Tompsett
3 Lester J Yeo	8 Ian V J Smith
4 Peter L Bill	9 Peter J Sawyer
5 Timothy M Bayton	10 Michael E C Mears (C)

70th birthday compliment to Mike Tompsett

First Spliced Surprise Maximus for Sarah Chadburn

Withycombe Raleigh, Devon, St John the Evangelist
Thursday, 25 January 2018 in 3hrs 18m
5136 Spliced Surprise Maximus (4m)
1392 Bristol; 1248 Cambridge, Lincolnshire, Yorkshire; 31 changes of method; all the work.
Composed by A J Cox & M J Hilling

1 Alison C Waterson	7 Ian V J Smith
2 Pauline McKenzie	8 James Kirkcaldy
3 Susan D Sparling	9 Richard Harrison
4 Sarah E Chadburn	10 John R Martin
5 Charlotte A Boyce	11 David Hird
6 Jennifer R Sparling	12 Michael E C Mears (C)

1st Spliced S Maximus: 4

Exeter Cathedral – with John Martin single handed on the tenor and Rebecca Harrison's first of Stedman Cinques

Exeter, Devon
Cathedral Church of St Peter
Saturday, 10 February 2018 in 4h 20
5007 Stedman Cinques

Composed by M R Eccleston

1 Paul J Pascoe (C)	7 David G Maynard
2 Rebecca J Harrison	8 James Kirkcaldy
3 Timothy M Payne	9 Richard Harrison
4 Charlotte A Boyce	10 Thomas J Waterson
5 Peter L Bill	11 Michael E C Mears
6 Ian V J Smith	12 John R Martin

A 70th Birthday compliment to Sue Sparling.

First Peal of Stedman and of Cinques: 2.

Sue Sparling's 70th birthday

Kingsteignton, Devon

St Michael

Monday, 12 February 2018 in 3hrs 10m (16–3–11 in F)
5184 Bristol Surprise Major

Composed by R D S Brown

1 Ian W Avery	5 Ian R Fielding
2 Susan D Sparling	6 Jennifer R Sparling
3 Timothy M Bayton	7 David Hird
4 Pauline McKenzie	8 Michael E C Mears (C)

Sue Sparling's 70th birthday treat

Mike Mears

Tim's Handbell Quarter Peal Day

In recent years it has become a tradition for Tim Bayton to host a handbell quarter peal day. This year the event took place on Saturday 6th January. Seven quarter peals were planned and all were scored, some more easily than others! The methods included Surprise Major (Bristol, six-spliced, Yorkshire and Lincolnshire), Cambridge Surprise Royal, Little Bob Royal and Kent Treble Bob Major. After a last-minute change of personnel as a result of illness, six people took part in the day: Tim Bayton, Ian Campbell, Andrew Digby, Sue Sawyer, Sue Sparling and Jill Wigney.

Tim Bayton

Four Excuses to Ring For:

- Formation of the Royal Air Force - 100th Anniversary: 01-04-2018
- Wartime ban on ringing lifted for service ringing - 75th Anniversary: 25-04-2018
- Treaty against illegal slave handling - 200th Anniversary: 04-05-2018
- Karl Marx born - 200th Anniversary: 05-05-2018

Central Council Web Site

Ropeless Ringing?

Dear Ian

Am I the 94th reader of RRD No.107 to point out that the man on the box in the picture on the cover appears to be ringing without any rope?

I appreciate that I have come late to this matter but it's still intriguing.

Keep up the v. good work on RRD.

Peter Walter

Dear Peter

I am sorry that you couldn't see the rope that Michael Esbester was using to ring the bell at David and Helen's wedding in Romsey. I think that the ropes were rather thin so did not show! I enclose a modified version which shows it a little more clearly. I hope that this helps.

On-line Resources

Q: What information is available on the Internet about ringing?

A: There is an enormous number of web sites related to ringing. The Ringing Information pages at <http://www.ringing.info> have links to any site about bells that you could imagine, including the Guilds and Associations all over the country. Dove's guide (linked from ringing info) lists details of all the ringable bells in the world – including your local tower. There are numerous clips of ringing on Youtube.

Q: What computer programs are available to help ringers?

A: There are a number of programs and apps which might be of interest to ringers. Details can be found on the web pages above.

Q: What apps can I run on my phone or tablet?

A: There are applications both for Android and Apple devices. The ones that I particularly like on my Android phone are 'Methodology', which can be used to check and learn any method that has ever been named, and even put in new methods, 'Tower Guide' which gives details of all towers and lets you record your visits, and 'Touchline' which can be used to prove compositions in most methods – but be warned – the bobs are not always quite what you might expect. All of these are free to download and use.

On my iPad I use 'IAgrams' for method details and 'Doves Guide' for tower details. 'Mobel' is the Apple version of 'Abel' which simulates ringing bells; it does cost a few pounds.

Q: What programs can I run on my PC or laptop?

A: There are hundreds of programs available. The ringing.info site lists five programs which can be used to record your ringing achievements (especially peals and quarter peals). 'Abel' or 'Beltower' are regularly used as ringing simulators – to which you can join in either from the keyboard, a dumb-bell, or a hand-bell simulator.

Q: How can I run Android apps on my PC/laptop?

A: A free program called 'Bluestacks' can be downloaded and run on any PC which will then load Android programs. So you get the best of both worlds!

I am sure that many of you have other favourite programs – do let me know what they are and what they do and I can include them in another issue of RRD.

Ian Campbell



Ian Campbell

Education Programme: 2018

Date	Course	Tutor/Organiser
17 March	ART Module 1	Les Boyce
18 March 12.30–2.30	Young Ringers' Practice – Denmisch simulated campanile	Ian Campbell
7 April 2.00	8-bell striking competition practice	
21 April 2.00	Ringing by ear: Practice with a Simulator	
5 May 2.00	8-bell striking competition practice	
19 May	ART Module 2F	Les Boyce
2 June 2.00	8-bell striking competition practice	
3 June 12.30–5.30	Handbells: Plain Bob and Beyond – Dawlish	Tim Bayton
17 June 12.30–2.30	Young Ringers' Practice – Denmisch simulated campanile	Oliver Coldrick
8 September	ART Module 2C	Les Boyce
15 September 10.00–4.00	Learning to Conduct	
16 September 12.30–2.30	Young Ringers' Practice – Denmisch simulated campanile	Oliver Coldrick
27 October	ART Module 1	Les Boyce
3 November 10.00–4.00	Kaleidoscope Ringing	
16 December 12.30–2.30	Young Ringers' Practice – Denmisch simulated campanile	Oliver Coldrick

*For the Association of Ringing Teachers (ART) please contact Les Boyce
lesboyce@ringingteachers.co.uk*

*For all other education/training matters please contact Tim Bayton
Educationofficer@devonringers.org.uk*

Calendar

March		
Sat 10	10:00	Call Change Workshop (TRC Event), Huntsham North East
Sat 10	10:00	Branch Practice Plain Bob, Grandsire and other Doubles, St Budeaux South West
Mon 12	19:30	8 bell practice, Berry Pomeroy Mid Devon
Mon 12	19:30	Branch Practice, Clyst Honiton Aylesbeare
Wed 14		Mid-Week Outing North East
Wed 14	19:30	Triples and Plain Major Practice, Huntsham North East
Sat 17	09:15	ART Module 1, Pinhoe Guild
Sat 17	10:00	Surprise Major Practice, Seaton tbc East
Sun 18	12:30	Young Ringers' Practice, DenMisch Young Ringers
Mon 19	1930	6 Bell Practice entry level St Simons & Reverse Canterbury, Huntsham North East
Wed 21	19:00	Branch Committee Meeting, Heathcoat Centre, Tiverton North East
Wed 28	19:30	Surprise Major Quarter Peal North East
April		
Wed 4	19:30	Quarter Peal, Huntsham North East
Sat 7	14:00	Ringing Competitions: Practice at 8-Bell Methods, Clyst Honiton Guild
Sat 7	15:00	N-E Branch Quarterly Meeting, North East
Sat 7	19:00	Branch Practice, Lustleigh Mid Devon
Mon 9	19:30	Branch Practice, Littleham, Exmouth Aylesbeare
Wed 11	19:30	Triples and Plain Major Practice, Huntsham North East
Sat 14	10:00	6 Bell Open Practice, Cruwys Morchard North East
Mon 16	1930	6 Bell Practice entry level St Simons & Reverse Canterbury, Huntsham North East
Wed 18	19:30	Quarter Peal on request (arranged by TRC), Huntsham North East
Wed 18	19:30	Branch practice, St Mark's Church, Exeter Exeter
Thu 19	19:30	6 bell practice, Bickington Mid Devon
Sat 21		ART Module 2F Guild
Sat 21	14:00	Ringing by Ear: Individual simulator practice sessions Guild
Wed 25	19:30	Surprise Major Quarter Peal North East
Sat 28		Branch Practice Plain Bob, Grandsire and other Doubles, TBC South West
Sat 28	10:00	Devon Ringers' Council Competition Day, Exmouth Guild
Sat 28	10:00	Extended Practice - Plain Hunting (TRC Event), North East Huntsham
May		
Wed 2	19:30	Quarter Peal, Huntsham North East
Sat 5	10:00	6 Bell Open Practice, Tiverton, St Paul's North East
Sat 5	14:00	Ringing Competitions: Practice at 8-Bell Methods, Broadclyst Guild
Mon 7		Train outing to Taunton, with a walking ringing tour, Taunton Exeter
Wed 9	19:30	Triples and Plain Major Practice, Huntsham North East
Thu 10	19:30	Branch Practice, Topsham Aylesbeare
Sat 12	19:00	Branch Practice, ? Stoke Gabriel Mid Devon
Wed 16	19:30	Quarter Peal on request (arranged by TRC) Huntsham North East

Wed 16	19:30	8 bell practice, Dawlish	Mid Devon
Sat 19		Branch Spring Outing, TBC	South West
Sat 19	10:00	8-Bell Call Changes Workshop (Association event), Huntsham	North East
Sat 19	14:00	National 6-Bell Call Change Competition (Association event), Bampton	North East
Mon 21	1930	6 Bell Practice entry level St Simons & Reverse Canterbury, Huntsham	North East
Wed 23	19:30	Surprise Major Quarter Peal	North East
June			
Sat 2	10:00	6 Bell Open Practice, Cadbury	North East
Sat 2	14:00	Ringing Competitions: Practice at 8-Bell Methods	Guild
Sat 2	19:00	Branch Practice, ? Bovey Tracey	Mid Devon
Sun 3	12:30	Handbells: Plain Bob and Beyond, Dawlish	Guild
Wed 6	19:30	Quarter Peal, Huntsham	North East
Sat 9		Annual Outing	North East
Wed 13	19:30	Triples and Plain Major Practice, Huntsham	North East
Wed 13	19:30	Branch practice, St David's Church, Exeter	Exeter
Thu 14	19:30	6 bell practice, Bishopsteignton	Mid Devon
Fri 15	19:00	Branch Committee Meeting, Heathcoat Centre, Tiverton	North East
Fri 15	19:30	Branch Practice, Broadclyst	Aylesbeare
Sat 16		Guild AGM, St Paul's Newton Abbott	Mid Devon
Sun 17	12:30	Young Ringers' Practice, DenMisch	Young
		Simulated Campanile	Ringers

Editorial

Well we hit the deadline of getting the December issue distributed at the carol service even though I had to carry them all in on the bus as parking is getting rather difficult at the cathedral. Thanks go to the new printers for getting it printed and delivered so quickly. The issue was so large that, for the first time, the copies for two branches had to be split between two envelopes. I will have to get some bigger envelopes! But thanks for this are due to all of you who submitted articles for publication. And despite the fears expressed the cathedral bells were ready for the carol service – I hope that you all came and enjoyed the singing and the ringing. The service was held in the choir at the cathedral which gave it a warm and intimate feel, with the congregation sitting with the choir. Unfortunately the 300 seats provided were not quite enough for everyone and a few late-comers (particularly cathedral ringers who were ringing for the service touch) had to sit away from it all in the nave.

Next year’s carol service has already been booked for Buckfast Abbey on Sunday 9th December – I look forward to hearing how the brand-new organ performs!

With immediate effect following the Guild committee meeting the price of a subscription to RRD has risen to £10. This is to reflect the increase in the cost of printing the larger editions which we seem to be producing and also a rise in the cost of postage, although as many copies as possible are distributed through the branches. The first person caught by the increase was Ian Smith – he offered a £10 note before the meeting when the cost was still £6 but I had to delay taking the money as I had no change. After the meeting when the cost had gone up no change was necessary!

The court case following a ringing accident described in this issue is of particular concern for all ringers, especially those involved with teaching. We need to protect ourselves against this as much as possible – Andy offers some useful advice including outlining the risks to the learner before starting to teach and having an up to date risk analysis documented.

Ian Campbell



MUSICAL HANDBELL RESTORATION

Specialist repairs by Geoffrey C. Hill

Free written quotations

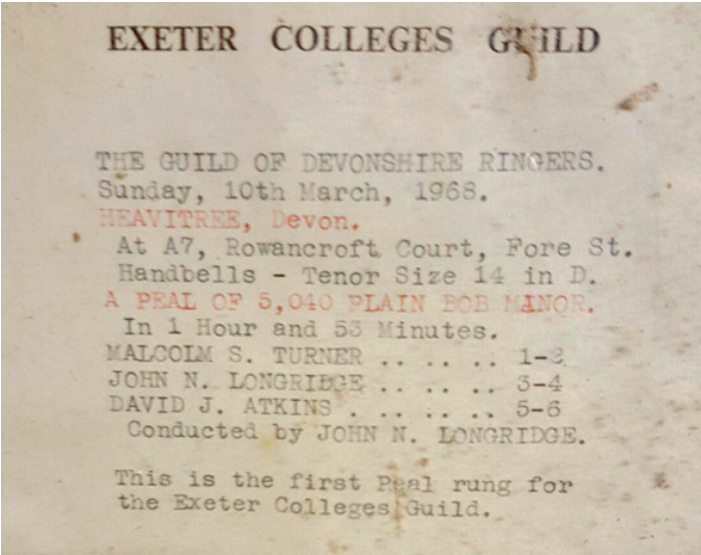
New Court Farm, Lamerton, Tavistock,
Devon PL19 8RR

Telephone 01822 614319

E-mail: newcourtfarm1@btinternet. com

Exeter Colleges Guild mark Anniversary

The Exeter Colleges Guild rang their first peal on Sunday 10th March 1968 – on handbells. Fifty years on they are still ringing handbells, largely as a product of the many ringers who have learnt from the regular Wednesday handbell sessions at the University. To celebrate, David and Helen threw open their flat for the weekend of 9-11 March, and with an ambitious program of peals and quarters, kept the neighbours awake for many hours. Four peals were rung over the weekend – Yorkshire Major, Kent Royal, and two simultaneous peals of Plain Bob Minor (in different rooms!) giving two members the chance to ring their first peals. Saturday morning was spent ringing quarter peals – two were lost but four were scored.



Details of the first ECG peal

Before going out for a curry on Saturday evening the group walked down the road to Rowancroft – the hall of residence where the first peal was rung – and rang a course of Plain Bob Major. A final quarter was rung on Sunday afternoon for Steph who had been in both of the lost attempts on Saturday.



Ringling outside Rowancroft on the same handbells used for the first peal

Congratulations go to Daisy Atkin for ringing her first peal and Richard Johnson (Grich) for ringing his first handbell peal. Thanks are due to David and Helen for their hospitality (and lunch!) and to those who came to help, especially Tom Hinks who travelled down for the occasion and without whom more of the attempts may well have foundered!



L to r: Nathan Evans, David Maynard, Alice Holden, Daisy Atkin, Steph Hills, Tom Hinks, Ian Campbell, Richard Johnson



First handbell peal: Grich with Tom and Ian



First peal for Daisy

Ian Campbell